

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7, and ending at page 9, line 18 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

FIGs. 4 and 5 illustrate ways that an article 5', marked in the manner illustrated in FIG. 1a, can be interrogated to determine the authenticity of the article 5'. As shown in FIG. 4, a reader or detector 100' images the mark 12' and computes the printable code 50' by performing the designated algorithm 30' on the spectral signature. A display 105' on the reader 100' displays the computed code. The user 110' views and compares the computed code with the code 50' printed on the article or on a label 10' affixed to the article. In the illustrated case, the mark and code both appear on a label 10' which is coupled with the article to be identified. If the codes match, then the article is legitimate. Preferably, in a label configuration, the label 10' is tamper-evident, such that if a legitimate label is removed from its original location, the mark 12' is destroyed or altered, such that spectral analysis and decoding of the altered mark 12' will not yield a computed code that matches the printed code 50'.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 19, and ending at page 9, line 23 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

In another embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 5, a reader 150' scans the mark 12' and a serialized barcode 155' printed on the article or a label affixed to the article. If these components "match", then the reader 150' gives an indication of a match, such as with an indicator light 160'. The components match if they are stored in conjunction with one another in the database 60'.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 24 and ending at page 10, line 3 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

FIGs. 4 and 5 illustrate analysis via a generally portable device, with the mark 12' being reviewed without disturbing its attachment to the article. In some cases, however, it may be advantageous to extract the reporter elements to perform other types of analysis not conducive to portable equipment or to "in the field" methods or technology.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 8, and ending at page 15, line 13 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

A reader or detector 100, 100' or 150_ incorporates hardware that links it to the computer on which the algorithm 30 and database 60 or algorithm 30' and database 60', respectively, are stored so that it can access the relevant algorithm 30 or 30', respectively, as well as data from the database 60 or 60', respectively, regarding the subject goods, such as a textual description or serial numbers. This link can be made via the internet or via hardware or any other method of transferring digital information. Preferably, security features allow access to the database and algorithm only to selected users.